

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 609 - SB 651

February 22, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Decreases, from 2.5 percent to .5 percent, the minimum number of signatures of registered voters equal to the percentage of the total number of votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor received in order to qualify as a recognized minor party in a primary or general election. Increases, from 5 percent to 25 percent, the minimum number of votes equal to the percentage of the total number of votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor one political party candidate must receive for the party to qualify as a statewide political party. Decreases, from 5 percent to 1 percent, the minimum number of votes equal to the percentage of the total number of votes cast for candidates in the most recent election of county mayor a recognized minor party must receive if the party is established solely within one county.

Authorizes a recognized minor party to retain statewide recognition beyond the current election year if one candidate for the party received a number of votes equal to 1 percent of the total votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-13-107(f), to retain statewide recognition as a minor party after the current election year, the minor party must meet the requirements of a statewide political party. A statewide political party is currently required to have one candidate receive the number of votes equal to five percent of total votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor to retain statewide political party status.
- The proposed legislation authorizes a recognized minor party to retain statewide status after the current election year if one candidate for the party received a number of votes equal to one percent of the total votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor.
- The proposed legislation may result in an increase of recognized minor party participation in primary or general elections; however, it is not estimated to significantly impact the policies or procedures of the Secretary of State Division of Elections or local county election commissions.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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